

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/420,507
Amendment dated October 14, 2003
Reply to OA of July 17, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

At Cont

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An electronic camera to be driven by a battery, comprising

an instruction key for instructing for picture taking;

a picture taking means for taking a subject image at least 1 scene in response to operation of said instruction key;

a processing means for performing signal processing on a camera signal corresponding to said subject image taken by said picture taking means and creating an image signal;

a recording means for recording said image signal created by said processing means to a recording medium;

a comparison means for comparing a remaining capacity of said battery with a predetermined threshold value;

a disabling means for disabling said instruction key depending upon a result of comparison by said ~~comparing~~ comparison means;

a select means for selecting either one of a still image recording mode to picture taking a 1-scene subject image in response to once operating said instruction key and recording said 1-scene image signal to said recording medium, and a continuous image recording mode to picture taking a

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plurality of scenes of subject images in response to once operating said instruction key and recording said plurality of scenes of image signals to said recording medium;

a first enabling means for enabling a first threshold value related to a consumed power required for recording a 1-scene image signal when said still image recording mode is selected; and

a second enabling means for enabling a second threshold value related to a consumed power required for recording said plurality of scenes of image signals when said continuous image recording mode is selected, wherein said first threshold value is less than said second threshold value.

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Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein said recording means includes a storing means to temporarily store said image signal processed by said processing means into an internal memory, and a write means to write, after a predetermined number of scenes of image signals have been stored in said internal memory, said predetermined number of ~~screens~~ scenes of image signals to said recording medium.

Claim 3 (Original): An electronic camera according to claim 2, wherein said predetermined number of scenes is related to a recording mode selected by said select means.

Claim 4 (Original): An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein said continuous image recording mode includes a motion image recording mode to take a first number of scenes of

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motion images in response to once operating said instruction key and recording said first number of scenes of image signals to said recording medium, and a successive shot recording mode to perform successive shots of still images in a second number of scenes less than said first number of scenes in response to once operating said instruction key and recording said second number of scenes of image signals to said recording medium;

said processing means creating an image signal of a first resolution when said motion image recording mode is selected and an image signal of a second resolution higher than said first resolution when said successive shot recording mode is selected;

and

said second threshold value assuming a common value in between said motion image recording mode and said successive shot recording mode.

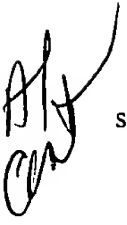
Claim 5 (Original): An electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising a display means for displaying character indicative of not-recordable depending upon a result of comparison by said comparing means.

Claim 6 (New): An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein said first threshold value is a remaining battery voltage that is greater than or equal to 5% of a battery fully charged capacity and said second threshold value is the remaining battery voltage that is greater than or equal to 25% of the battery fully charged capacity.

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Claim 7 (New): An electronic camera which is driven by a battery, comprising:
an imaging device for imaging an object;

a selector for selecting anyone of a first mode for recording one screen of image signal corresponding to an object image which is imaged by said imaging device and a second mode for recording a plurality of screens of image signals corresponding to the object images which are imaged by said imaging device;

 a recorder for recording to a recording medium the image signal(s) having the number of screens corresponding to the mode selected by said selector;

a displayer for displaying a real-time motion image corresponding to the object images which are imaged by said imaging device during a time period that no recording process is performed by said recorder;

a detector for detecting a remaining amount of said battery when a recording instruction is issued;

a determiner for determining whether or not the remaining amount detected by said detector is equal to or more than a threshold value corresponding to the mode selected by said selector out of a first threshold value corresponding to the first mode and a second threshold value corresponding to the second mode; and

a controller for enabling said recorder when a determination result of said determiner is affirmative and disabling said recorder when the determination result of said determiner is negative.

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Claim 8 (New): An electronic camera according to claim 7, wherein the first threshold value corresponds to a consumption power required for recording the one screen of image signal, and the second threshold value corresponds to the consumption power required for recording the plurality of screens of image signals.

Claim 9 (New): An electronic camera according to claim 7, wherein said recorder includes a writer for writing to an internal memory the image signal corresponding to the object image, and a transferor for transferring the image signal stored in said internal memory to said recording medium.

Claim 10 (New): An electronic camera according to claim 7, wherein the second mode includes a first resolution mode for recording M (M: integer more than one) screens of the image signals each of which has a first resolution, and a second resolution mode for recording N (N: integer more than one and less than M) screens of the image signals each of which has a second resolution higher than the first resolution.

Claim 11 (New): An electronic camera according to claim 10, wherein the second threshold value has a common numerical value to the first resolution mode and the second resolution mode.

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Claim 12 (New): An electronic camera according to claim 7, further comprising an
outputter for outputting a message indicative of not-recordable when the determination result of said
determiner is negative.
